

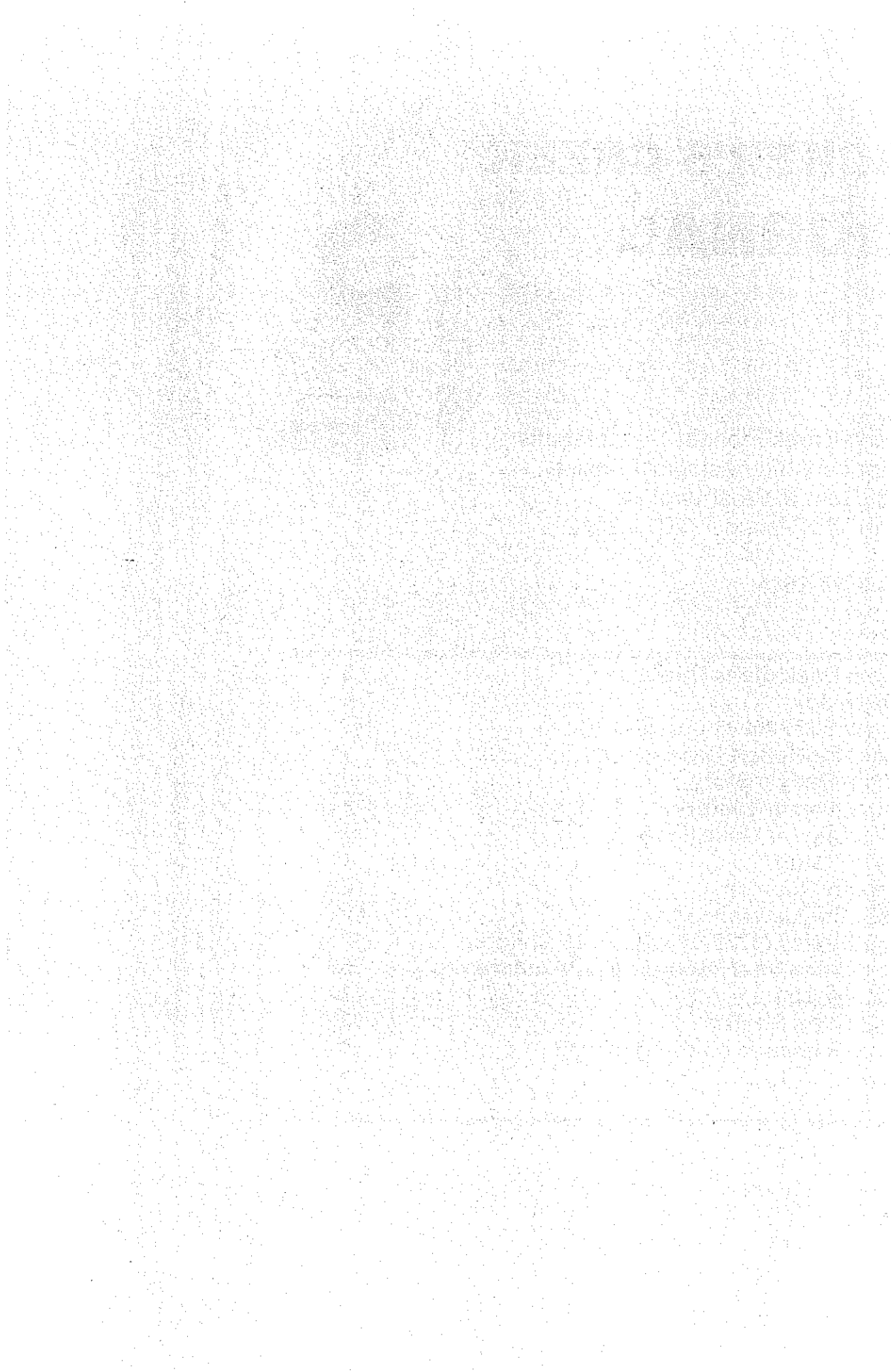
HACKER'S CREEK JOURNAL



Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants
A Historical & Genealogical Society
of Central West Virginia
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From the Desk



of the Director

Greetings to all our Members,

Hope this finds you all well and happy as yet another Christmas season has passed. I am sure that everyone watched their diet and didn't eat anything that was fatty, gooey or loaded with sugar. (wink , wink) . Once you get to know me, you will know how much I appreciate food.

The weather here has been mild for this time of year. We've had a few nasty days but that is to be expected. I am already looking forward to spring.

Activities here at the library have slowed down. The only thing I have to report is that we had not only one Christmas party but two.

As time goes by, I am getting to know my job a little better; but I don't know what I would have done if it weren't for my very knowledgeable staff of employees and volunteers. They have been very patient. One day I said to them, "I do have more words in my vocabulary other than I don't know." They thought that was funny.

We have received our Community Participation Grant and hope to have new sidewalks and a handicapped ramp installed by Gathering if not before.

We are also planning on getting a new Library sign and installing memorial pavers around it to beautify the front lawn.

Be sure to look for the article that I submitted in this Journal about my grandmother titled "*Grandma Rudy's Story*." It is a very interesting and a very sad story with a happy ending. Those of you who have researched your family histories know that what you find is not always comfortable to read about. My grandmother, however, told this story to us as she progressed into her last years. It was as if she needed to unburden herself after keeping it all bottled up until she was well into her 90's. Hope you enjoy the story.

I look forward to meeting you all and have enjoyed talking to many of you over the phone.

Till next time

Linda

JOTS from JOY

Editor/Webmaster



I've been hearing some good comments about our new website. If you haven't visited yet, won't you take time this week to stop by and look around. The address is www.hackerscreek.com

There are a number of changes with our new website. However, three of these are major ones that impact the way HCPD does business.

Yes, I know. We are a genealogy society but we are also a business. It takes "moolah" to maintain our library, keep the lights and gas on, and pay our staff.

(1) One of the ways we have of raising funds is selling our publications and some other items in John Sleeth's Trading Post.¹ Perhaps the biggest change is in the way you pay for things you order from our Trading Post and pay your dues.

- As in the past, you may call your credit card information to the office in order to pay for your dues or merchandise. This has not changed.
- You may also send in a written order by mail.
- If you paid by entering your credit card data on the secure form, that is almost, but not quite the same. Now, because there is better security through PayPal, all credit card transactions – Visa, Master Card, Discovery and American Express – are handled through PayPal. You do not have to have a PayPal account to pay with your credit card; and you WILL NOT be charged a fee by PayPal. Of course, if you are concerned about that, you can still call the office and give the girls your information. If you work and calling during the day is

¹ John **SLEETH** was in the first party of settlers to establish roots in what is now Lewis County. He was a farmer and a businessman, operating a trading post at West's Fort (now Jane Lew, WV).

not convenient for you, you can call during our evening hours on Thursday or call on Saturday.

(2) Interested in knowing who else in HCPD might be researching your surnames?

- In the menu on the left side of the screen at www.hackerscreek.com , go to Virtual Library and click on the bottom menu item on the left of your screen - It says Surname Research. Or the quick way for you to get there for now is to click on this: <http://www.hackerscreek.com/surname.php> You will see a bunch of surnames and some empty columns. The surnames that are listed belong to members of HCPD who have paid their dues for membership year 2011-2012 and who have followed the instructions below and entered the surname and pertinent data about their families. Each of these surnames are connected to the person's e-mail address who submitted that particular listed name. For instance, let's use the listing: **ALLMAN**. There are several of these and we don't know if they are submitted by one person or by several. This means that, at this moment, there are five persons who have paid their membership year 2011-2012 who are researching **ALLMAN**. To the left of those names are two things: an eye and an envelope. If you click on the eye for any given name, you will see a list that says:

Surname:

City:

County:

Region/State/Province

Country

Begin Date:

End Date:

If you click on the envelope, an e-mail screen will come up. Complete the form by asking questions, etc. (much like you would do when answering any query) and our website server will send an e-mail to the person who submitted that particular

surname.

You will not know to whom that e-mail is going until that person responds to you. Remember, it is entirely up to the person who submitted the surname to determine if they want to answer that person or not. It's sorta like on Ancestry. . . they can or cannot choose to respond.

(3) Want to add your own surnames, so others (including the public) will be able to find. Now the beauty of this page is that *YOU* enter your surnames and provide the information you have about them. The searcher will see your surname, click on it and be able to send you a message asking about your surname. *UNLESS YOU ANSWER THAT E-MAIL*, the persons asking will not know who you are.

To enter your surnames and pertinent information:

- Sign in to the website as a member
- In the menu beneath "Member" click on the word "Profile".
- At the top of the next screen, you will first see Membership Profile for (your name). You will see two blue-colored sentences. If you click on these, you can change your user id and password.

Scroll on down the page and you will see a RELATED SURNAME Chart. On the right at the top of the chart are the words "Add Surname." Click on these words and add your surnames and other information sought.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH ANY OF THESE, PLEASE CONTACT ME DIRECT at joy41941@hackerscreek.com or click on webmaster.

In addition, if you have any suggestions to improve our website or information you would like to submit for it, just let me know. This is *YOUR* webpage. I am just your helper in making it happen.

Joy

Interview ??????

for Yourself and Others

Editor's Note: Darrell **GROVES** submitted this list which was compiled by Juliana **SMITH**.

Here is a list of questions that can serve as prompts for your personal history, or as the basis for an interview of a family member.

Where did you grow up?
How long did your family live in the area(s)?
How many siblings did you have? What were their names and how old were they?
What were they like?
Were there other family members in the area? Who?
Did you live on a farm? What kind of crops did you grow?
What kind of livestock or other animals did you keep?
Did you have any pets?
What was the house or apartment like? How many rooms?
What kind of amenities did it have? (Indoor plumbing, electricity or gas, phone, television, etc.)
Were there any special items in the house that stand out in your mind (favorite possessions of yours, your parents, or siblings)?
What kind of area/neighborhood was it?
Did the town have a railroad? post office? What kind of stores or shops?
What was your family's religious affiliation?
Where did you go to church?
What religious ceremonies did you take part in?
Did you have godparents or sponsors?
Where did you go to school?
What level education do you have?
What was your favorite subject to study?
Did you have any special interests when you were growing up (sports, hobbies, crafts, etc.)?
What kind of games did you play?
What was your favorite toy?
What did you do for fun (go to beach, park, movies, zoo, etc.)?
Did your family ever take trips or go on vacation?

Do you speak any foreign languages?
 Did you have family reunions?
 Who were your friends when you were growing up?
 Who were the close friends of the family?
 Describe the personalities of your family members.
 Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?
 Were there any serious illnesses in your family?
 Do any illnesses run in the family?
 Were there any memorable traditions that your family practiced?
 Can you remember any stories that were told to you as a child (fictional, folklore, or real life)?
 What events stand out in the memory of your childhood (historical, personal, familial, storms or disasters, fire, etc.)?
 What inventions or developments changed your life, and how?
 What was your father's occupation? Where did he work?
 Did your mother work? Where?
 Did you work? Where?
 Did anyone in your family ever serve in the military?
 Did anyone in your family ever hold a public office?
 What was your favorite song?
 Did anyone in your family play a musical instrument?
 What were your family's favorite meals? Are there any special family recipes?
 Were certain foods eaten or avoided on certain occasions?
 Were you ever mentioned in a newspaper?
 What kind of organizations did your family belong to (fraternal, charitable, scouting, etc.)?
 What special skills do you have?
 How did you come into your profession?
 When did you move away from home?
 Have you ever been married? If so, to whom? When?
 Where did you meet your husband/wife?
 What qualities drew you to him/her?
 Did you exchange any special gifts?
 How long did you date before getting married?
 Where did you get married?
 Who participated in your wedding?
 Did you have a reception? Was there music? What songs were played?
 Do you have a copy of your wedding invitation?

Was there an announcement in the newspaper? Which paper?
How many children do you have?
How many are still living?
What stories did you tell your children when they were growing up?

Obituary for Robert Brown Riffle

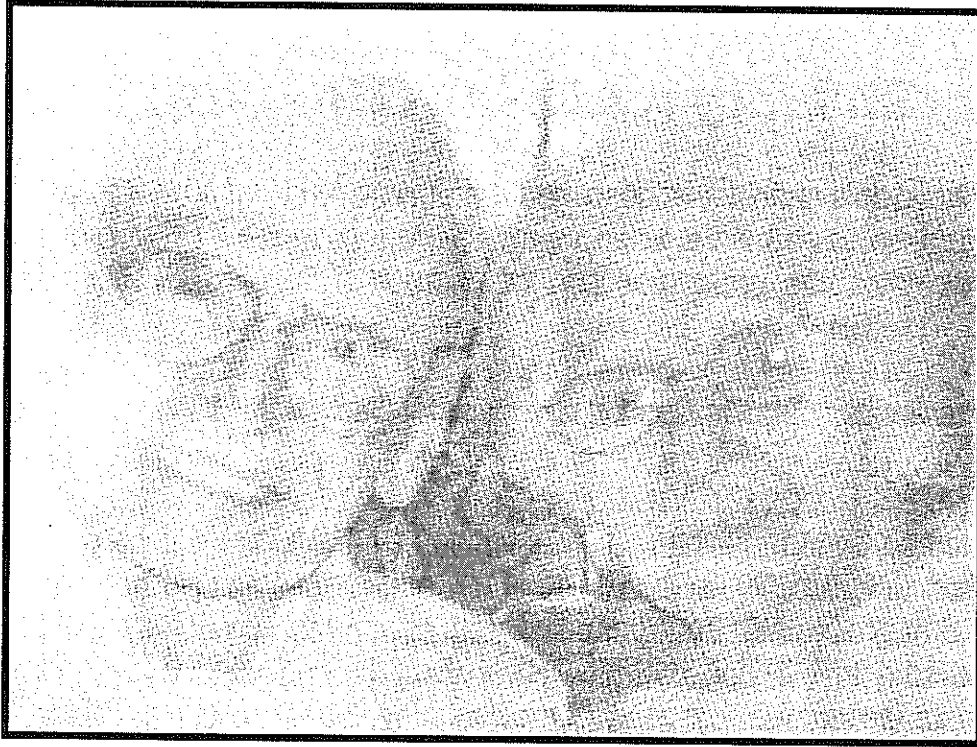
I have this man as a descendant of Jacob and Dorothy **RIFFLE** of Harrison co. VA/WVa, listed as my 5th cousin on the FTM relationship calculator, the great grandson of Andrew **CROUCH RIFFLE**. Jane **BOUCHER** <valjan@ptd.net>

Published in Orange County, CA, *Register* Dec 21, 2011. CA

RIFFLE, Robert BROWN, died on Sunday, Nov 20, 2011 at his home in Mission Viejo, he was 91, Born in Elkins WV on Oct 25, 1920 to Robert Bruce and Nettie Florence **KISNER RIFFLE**. Bob graduated from Elkins high school in 1938 and enlisted in the United States Navy the following year. A pharmacist mate tasked with independent medical duty. Bob served much of World War 11 in the Pacific, which included time on the submarine USS Seadragon, and the submarine tender, USS Holland. Soon after his discharge in Jan 1946 Bob moved to Southern Calif. . In 1951 he began working as a civilian at the El Toro USMC base and retired from the Supply Dept there in Sept 1990. Bob enjoyed working around the house, a good party, wearing old t-shirts, and cheering for his favorite team, the Angels. His wife of 39 yrs, Rita Gayle **KAUFMAN**, survives him, as do a son, Robert Nelson **RIFFLE** of Pasadena, a daughter, Pamela Anne **RIFFLE ARNDT** of Mission Viejo. three stepsons, four grandsons, and seven step grandchildren. His ashes will be interred at the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Jan 6, 2012.

Grandma RUDY's Story

by Linda Parsons



Helena **TESKA RUDY** and her brother **Albert TESKA** were reunited after being separated for 87 years. (Photo submitted by author.)

This is a story that is tragic, sad, happy and true. A story of the life of my Grandmother, Helena Martha **TESKA** born on April 1, 1910, in the small town of Clover Run, Pennsylvania. This is a very sad but true story which she kept to herself till she was well into her 90's.

Helena, who was later called Helen, recounts her story to her children and her grandchildren as if she needed to unburden herself about her life that we had no idea about until she was around 93 years old. She began telling her story to different family members as they visited her after my Grandfather, Jacob **RUDY**, had passed away.

The story starts with her sixth birthday. On this day she tells that her mother, Josephine, had taken the time out of her busy day to spend some special time with her daughter by putting little Helena on her lap as she sat in the rocking chair and enjoyed the day by singing together.

The day passed quickly and before they knew it Helena's father, Joseph, had come home from a long day somewhere (we don't know where) and expected to have dinner on the table. As was expected in those days, the wife needed to have dinner hot and waiting for the husband when they came home no matter what, so Joseph was not happy.

This is where the story gets hard to tell. Joseph proceeded to beat Josephine until she lay in an injured heap in the corner of the room. Josephine laid there in that corner for two whole days before her badly beaten body gave up life and died. Of course, no one did anything to Joseph because then that was reason enough to beat a wife for not having dinner ready.

Helena had three sisters and two younger brothers at that time. After the death of her mother her father sent the girls off to live with wealthy families to do whatever menial tasks needed to be done so they could make money to send home to their father.

Helena recounts of coming home sometime after that to see a horse drawn carriage in front of her house and her two younger brothers running around the yard scantily clothed and being chased by someone. They were put into the wagon and that person drove off with the two boys. That was the last time she saw her brothers. She heard that her father had **sold** the boys.

So, life was hard for Helena but she eventually met and married my grandfather and had five children. Still, she did not have an easy life. She raised five children in a little three room house and had lived off of the land, as they say, raising their own animals and canning their own vegetables since my grandfather wasn't to incline to find work very often. But they survived.

We come to the time that Helena needed to tell her story. We were all shocked because we had no idea that the life that my grandmother had lived was so full of hardships and we also didn't know that she had two brothers and she didn't know what had happened to them. At that point she hadn't seen or heard from her brother in 87 years.

My youngest sister was contacted via computer one day by a cousin that we didn't know we had who was looking for her biological father. She thought we may have some answers.

After my sister told her our story they put their heads together and through doing research on the computer not only found the cousin's

DNA Testing for Genealogists

by Jim Bartlett

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Currently (end of 2011), there are three basic DNA tests:

1. **Y-DNA** – carried only by men, who got it from their father. This is the DNA test used in SURNAME Projects because the DNA follows the all-male line (from the DNA donor back up his ancestry on the all-male/SURNAME line; and from any of these male ancestors back down any all-male line to the present). If two men have the same Y-DNA result, they have a common ancestor! The **BARTLETT-DNA** Project uses this test. There are 5 tests: Y-DNA 12, 25, 37, 67, and 111 (the number indicating how many sites or places or markers on the Y-DNA are examined. Y-DNA 37 is the best; Y-DNA 25 works. Y-DNA 67 and 111 might be helpful in certain cases, but in general do not provide much/any additional info; Y-DNA 12 is often not enough to be sure of a match.

2. **mtDNA** – carried by men and women, who got it from their mother. Note: men cannot pass this mtDNA to their children. This is the DNA test used to trace an all-female line (from the man or woman donor back up their ancestry on the all-female line; and from any of these female ancestors back down any all-female line to the present. If two people have the same mtDNA result, they have a common ancestor. A problem is that the mtDNA may go back many hundreds of (or even a thousand) years without any change, so the common ancestor often is much farther back than our genealogies. This fact, coupled with the difficulties in tracing all-female lines (the surname changes with every woman), means the mtDNA is not often used for genealogy. If you have a **BARTLETT** wife in your all-female ancestry, you are invited to join the **BARTLETT-DNA** Project for mtDNA testing, so that we may learn her mtDNA. There are 3 tests: HVR1, HVR2, FMS (the first two examine small parts of the mtDNA; the Full mt Sequence (FMS) examines all 16,569 sites on the mtDNA – everything). If you want a test to see if two women have a common ancestor, any of these mtDNA tests will usually work. If you want to know about your Deep Ancestry (thousands of years ago), or from which of the "Seven Daughters of Eve" (google it)

you descend, any of these tests will usually work. If you believe you descend (via an all-female line) from an American Indian, any of these tests will usually confirm that.

3. Family Finder – this test examines over 700,000 sites across all of your DNA (except the Y-DNA and mtDNA). Powerful computers then compare your result with all the other people who took this same test, looking for large “blocks” of DNA that are identical. If you and another person have a large DNA block in common, then you probably got the DNA from an ancestor you have in common – so you would be cousins. You must then compare your Ancestry with your matches to determine who the Common Ancestor is. This test works across all of your ancestry – it doesn't matter how many males or females are in the line – it works equally for all ancestors. This test works very well for third to fifth cousins. Beyond that fewer and fewer cousins will show up as a match, but because you have so many distant cousins, you still get many matches. I've documented paper trails to four 10th cousins I've found with Family Finder. I highly recommend this test for every serious genealogist.

The company we use for testing is **Family Tree DNA** – www.familytreedna.com – one of the original genealogy DNA companies, the one with the largest database for comparisons, and in my opinion the absolute best company for professionalism, quality, fairness, responsiveness, etc. FTDNA is used by over 80% of genealogists who do DNA testing – for many good reasons. Virtually any question can be answered (and then some) by reading their Frequently Asked Questions (click on the FAQ tab on their homepage). You can also use the search box for any SURNAME, to see if a project exists for your surname (or to visit the **BARTLETT** project).

When you order any of the above tests, FTDNA will give you a secure (password protected) webpage, where they post your results. They also post the names and emails of others in their database with matching DNA. They have several ways for you to post your ancestry list and/or tree or GEDcom. They will let you affiliate (join) several other projects if you want. They allow you to upload your results to publically available databases such as www.ysearch.org and www.mitosearch.org, if you want.

Both the Y-DNA and mtDNA tests also report your DNA Haplogroup (mine are E1b1b1a2 for Y-DNA and T2b6 for mtDNA). You can google your Haplogroup (the wiki articles are good), and learn when and where your all-male or all-female ancestry originated tens of thousands of years ago. The Family Finder does not report Haplogroups because each of us usually has many different Haplogroups in our ancestry (i.e. each of our ancestors may have had different origins).

The DNA test Kit includes all you need – just follow the directions. To collect the DNA sample, you will rub the inside of your cheek with a special swab (no pain, no blood). You then put the tip of the swab in a vial (provided); do again; and put both vials in a mailer (provided) and mail it in. Then wait..... for about 4 weeks for your result.

When your results are posted, FTDNA will send you an email, with a link, and you can then see who you match and their email addresses. For Y-DNA (surname) projects, the project Admin will usually contact you about where you fit in the surname Tree. For mtDNA or Family Finder, you are pretty much on your own to contact your matches and compare information. You are encouraged to communicate the news of your DNA test, via email lists, message boards, etc.

You don't need to know any biology, or complex terminology, to use DNA as a tool in your genealogy. Just remember that if two people have the same DNA, they share a Common Ancestor. Reread the paragraphs above about how the DNA is transmitted (Y-DNA is father to son; mtDNA is mother to children). If you have a question, draw a picture of your Tree and mark how the DNA is transmitted in each case. For the Family Finder test, the DNA is transmitted from each Ancestor to all their descendants!

When you take a DNA test, you really become a model (or hero) for your family lines, because you have now documented the DNA "signature" for your male and/or female lines. As noted in the Y-DNA and mtDNA paragraphs above, your DNA is the same as many people in your family Tree. Your results will benefit all who research the lines that share your DNA.

BOXES OF "STUFF"

by Jane Gilchrist

loomyladi@yahoo.com

For more than 30 years, literally since the beginning of HCPD, I have heard the plaintive cry of our *Journal* editor, "I need to get the *Journal* done. I need more articles." This time, I decided to follow through on my promise to submit an article. This article is not about surnames, dates, and places; rather it is about "boxes of stuff" left by an elderly relative.

During our editor's (aka "Mom" to me) recent move, I was the fortunate recipient of 6 copier boxes of memorabilia from my great aunt's estate. Reva **WINEMILLER BENNETT** was born in Weston, West Virginia. At the time of her death, she was in an extended care facility in Indianola, Iowa.

The eldest of three daughters of Nick P. (initial only, no middle name) and Denna **SQUIRES WINEMILLER**. She left the family home in McGuire Park in 1934 to relocate to the "Rubber City," Akron, Ohio. There she married Benson A. **BENNETT**, her childhood sweetheart from "down home." The young couple set up housekeeping in the Portage Lakes region of Akron, where they resided until they relocated to the Des Moines, Iowa, area to be closer to her youngest sister, Zoe **WINEMILLER STALKER**.

I have spent many hours working my way through these boxes. I have a long way to go, but it is a labor of love. As one who has an interest in the family genealogy, you, the reader, are familiar with the joy of gleaning a piece of the family puzzle. I, on the other hand, as the daughter of a devoted genealogist have listened to the family story since the beginning of time. Quite simply, during the majority of that time, I didn't really pay attention. That may shock you to hear, but you know that it's true with many in your own family. With the gift of these boxes, I have had the opportunity to "discover" my family story first hand.

Aunt Reva was a "clipper." During her lifetime she clipped and filed thousands of newspapers including obituaries, births, celebrations, tragedies, and everyday life events. Many of the clippings in her collection have little interest to me. They document the events of her

and Uncle Bennie's involvement in the Portage Lakes Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, as well as the personal details of their co-workers, friends, and neighbors.

With no children of her own, Aunt Reva put her maternal energy into taking an active interest in the lives of her friends and their children. She indulged her niece, Joy **GREGOIRE (GILCHRIST STALNAKER DEFAZIO)**, and her two nephews, Jene **GREGOIRE** and Kenneth Terry **STALKER**. Her clippings included information about Jene's football career at Green High School, Portage Lakes, Ohio.

"Revere High undoubtedly wishes big Jene **GREGOIRE** of Green had stayed in his native West Virginia," touts Jack Patterson, staff writer of the *Akron Beacon Journal*, in 1959. This clipping and several others elevate the gridiron exploits of my Uncle Jene to legendary status. Cousin Terry was also a football player. I particularly enjoy the clipping of him with the Carnegie Tech football team during practice. Family stories are full of the scholastic endeavors of Cousin Terry, but this shows a different side of him.

Thanks to Aunt Reva I know that Marion Clyde **SQUIRES** died at the age of 55 in Clarksburg, WV. A resident of Kincheloe he was survived by "the widow, a daughter, Mrs. Norma Jean **NICHOLS** of Bridgeport; a brother, Ray of El Paso Texas; and two sisters, Mrs. N.P. (Denna) **WINEMILLER** of Weston and Mrs. John (Una) **SMITH** of Smithburg." This clipping is from the 5 January 1955, edition of the *Weston Independent*. Sometime in 1957 Mrs. Kate **RAMSEY SQUIRES**, died at the age of 55 following an extended illness. I know (because I did listen to the family stories occasionally) that Kate was the widow of Marion. Her obituary has more details about the family. The Remembrance card from Uncle Clyde's funeral is an added bonus to the two obits. My "Cousin Jan," granddaughter of Kate and Clyde, through their daughter Norma Jean, was delighted to see these keepsakes.

Another story told in the boxes is the story of Virginia Doris **SMITH**. (21 November 1899 – 9 June 1987). Mrs. **SMITH** represented Lewis County as the Lewis County Belle at the Glenville Folk Festival at the age of 74. She was a member of the Stonecoal Home Demonstration Club, and Stonecoal United Methodist Church where she was a pianist and treasurer. She was a teacher and operated a grocery store in Horner, Kitsonville, and McGuire Park for many years. Upon her

passing, she was survived by one daughter, Mrs. Evelyn **BENNETT RAPP** of Charleston.

The story of Mrs. Evelyn **BENNETT RAPP** is also an interesting one. Evelyn was a 1938 graduate of Weston High School. Her marriage, on 9 July 1944, to Corp. Robert F. **RAPP** was attended by her foster mother, Mrs. Virgil **SMITH**, in Warrensburg, Missouri. The clippings are only part of her story. There are several letters from Evelyn to Reva included in the box. "Warrensburg is small, about like Weston – perhaps not as large a population," she writes. posted on 11 July 1944, she was a newlywed of two days when she shared the news with her sister-in-law, my Aunt Reva. Evelyn was the sister of my Uncle Benny.

A clipping from the paper of Mrs. Denna **WINEMILLER**, Rt 3, Box 80 shares the story of Mrs. Beulah (**CARROL**) **ALBAUGH**. Mrs. **ALBAUGH** graduated from Weston High School about 1931 and was engaged in running a "School for Brides" in the Phillipine Islands where her husband, Bernard J. **ALBAUGH** was stationed at Clark Air Force Base. The school for brides is intended to help foreign born brides assimilate to life in the United States upon their relocation with their military spouses. The **ALBAUGHs** had two children, Bernard John and Carolyn **ALBAUGH MACMILLIAN**.

I know that I said that there wouldn't be names, dates, and places. After all, this was just "boxes of stuff", saved by an aunt, who had no children. Information is lost on a daily basis because someone throws away the "stuff" that an elderly relative spent a lifetime of clipping and saving.

The handwritten letter from Evelyn to Aunt Reva might have been of special interest to someone. However, since both Evelyn and Uncle Benny died without children, there are no descendents that might cherish them. The story they help tell is an interesting one.

I shared the clippings of Evelyn with my roommate, Julia **STALNAKER BRAGG**, and she told me that Evelyn was the reason that she did NOT play the piano. She said, "Evelyn was my music teacher. She charged 10¢ each week. After a time, she told my parents that they were wasting their money."

In discussing Evelyn with my mother, she told me more of the story of Uncle Benny and his sister. Their parents were both well educated; they were tragically killed in a car-train accident.

In another box there is a photograph of Uncle Benny as a YOUNG boy standing next to a pretty girl holding flowers, his future wife. I know

All of the dates that are given (or are missing) are as excerpted from the clippings. I made the decision to change the date format to place the date in front of the month for clarification. If a year is missing it is because it was not given. The majority of these newspaper clippings did not have either a date or name and location of the paper. However, the clipping about the bride's school did have the name and address of my great grandmother. This box yielded a wealth of clues to my family. I still have many boxes to go through and I can only imagine the treasures the remaining boxes hold.

[illegible]

moved to the Barrackville area, but Frederick was buried on an island in the Cheat River. That island now lies underwater since Cheat River was dammed to become Cheat Lake. Adam died in 1851 and is buried in a cow pasture outside Barrackville.

21

OUR FAMILY REUNION

Submitted by Dick Depriest

You know, our family has grown so much we decided to all get together.

Setting a date was a little tricky what with Great Uncle Fred on the ankle monitor until his probation was up and Floreece with the pending court date and all. And then the location was hotly contested when Uncle Jerome brought up the fact that no one in the family could read a map.

Jerome's driver's license has been suspended for years anyway, so we all agreed he should hitch a ride with Cousin Bea, but Jerome said he wouldn't fit in the bed of the pickup, what with Bea's fourteen kids, so he finally agreed to ride with Uncle Lester. Uncle Lester thought that was a good idea because then Jerome could help when they all had to get out and push the old '48 Chevy up grades.

Finally, we set the date and picked the park. Everybody made it except Uncle Jerome's second boy Tyrell who won't get out for three more years. Well, it turned out to be a gorgeous day. We brought loads of food, and Cousin LeeRoy's new "boom" box. Everybody had agreed to leave the weapons at home so no one had to worry. The only mishap was Uncle Lester's Chevy lost a wheel just before the parking lot, so we all came over and just rolled it off the road for him. It turned out to be a real fun day.

Buster (Cousin Emil's pet pig) got into the hot dogs and made, well, a real pig of himself, and then promptly went to sleep. Nephew Clyde pinched Aunt Minnie on the butt, and you know Aunt Minnie, she clobbered Clyde and got his nose to bleedin'. Great Uncle Fred said Minnie had such a big butt that she should quit wearing those mini skirts and Minnie heard him and hit him too.

"Hot Stuff," Emil's daughter, jumped on Minnie's back and Minnie and Hot Stuff fell onto the picnic table and flattened it. Minnie is a little heavy, you know. This caused the bean pot to catapult onto Aunt Flossie's head. Now, Aunt Flossie was smoking at the time, and both the beans and Flossie's wig caught fire. Flossie turned to run but tripped over Buster and ran head first into the porta-potty which knocked her out. The good news is it sent her wig flying, thank goodness. Well, the fight was on then. Nobody got really hurt bad, but

GEORGE STRALEY (1770-1846)

His 18 Children by Two Wives

by Joy Gilchrist Stalnaker DeFazio



The William P. and Lucretia (**STRALEY**) **HACKER** home can still be seen from the back of the Fairview-Friendship Cemetery on the Hacker's Creek Road in Lewis County. This image is how it looked pre 1900.

George **STRALEY**, was born in 1770 in an unknown location. He was the eldest son and second known child to be born to Christian **STRALEY** and his wife, Christina **LANTZ**. He married (1) Elizabeth **BONNETT**, married 23-Mar-1796 in Harrison Co, (W)V, b. 1784, (daughter of Samuel **BONNETT** and Mary Elizabeth **LORENTA**) d. 19-Dec-1824 in Lewis Co, (W)V, buried: in probably in Harmony Cemetery nr Jane Lew.² He married (2) Margaret **ROBY**, married ??-Nov-1828 in Lewis Co, (W)V, b. CA 1801 in Virginia, (daughter of Elkanah H. **ROBY**

² His burial place is named by Judge **MCWHORTER** in a speech he gave for the 100th anniversary of the Jane Lew Methodist Church. There is no marker.

and Charlotte **BARNETT**) d. after 1880 in Lewis Co, (W)V. George died 9-Aug-1846 in Lewis Co, (W)V, buried: in Harmony Cemetery nr Jane Lew, Lewis Co, WV. George **STRALEY** owned a lot of property up and down Hacker's Creek.

In 1818, according to the Land Tax Books, George owned 21 acres. His acquisition of this acreage is probably in Harrison County.

Three tracts, owned jointly by George and his brother Joseph, were purchased by them from their parents, Christian and Christina **STRALEY**, for the sum \$800 on 13 April 1818 as recorded in Deed Book A, pages 161-163, in Lewis County. The three tracts totaled 579 acres; however, in the land tax records, they are taxed for tracts of 400 acres, 39 acres, and 171 acres for a total acreage of 600 acres.

The land transfer occurred shortly before Christian's death. These three tracts, as proven by a later deed, included the Harmony Methodist Church property. The church deed was recorded in Deed Book C, page 318, in Lewis County, West Virginia:

"This Indenture made in the year of our Lord one thousand & eight hundred & twenty six Between George **STRALEY** and Joseph **STRALEY** of the county of Lewis and State of Virginia of the one part and George **COOKMAN**, Jacob **HARDMAN**, Peter **SWITZER** and William **MITCHEL** Trustees Elect for the Methodists and their friends removable at pleasure of the other part all of the county and State aforesaid Witnesseth that for and in consideration of one dollar to them in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have granted Bargained, and hold and by these presents do grant bargain and sell to the Methodist and their friends and to the said Trustees in trust for their particular use and benefit and none other only they shall please to dispose of a certain tract or parcel of land on Hacker's Creek in the County and State aforesaid adjoining Lands of the said George & Joseph **STRALEY** running thus or North 44 degrees East 20 poles to two white oaks North 44 west 12 poles to two Beeches thence North 44 East 20 poles to a stake near the road thence South 44 West twelve poles to the Beginning including a house for public worship known by the name of the Harmony meeting house with all its appurtenances from the said George & Joseph **STRALEY** and their heirs forever and to them the Trustees with the above mentioned Methodists and their heirs forever for a Burial yard and a house of public worship and none other purpose and the sd George & Joseph **STRALEY** do covenant and

agree with the aforementioned parties that they alien the said Tract from them and their heirs and will warrant and defend from them and their heirs and ____ other powers claiming under them - In Witness whereof we the said George & Joseph **STRALEY** have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals this fourth day of April in the year of our Lord first above written.

George **STRALEY**
Joseph **STRALEY**

In 1842, according to the Land Tax records "within the Dist. of Festus **YOUNG**, Commissioner of the Revenue in the County of Lewis" the "three lots of land are divided and charged to them (George and Joseph) one lot each" and each is taxed for 300 acres. George owned most of the land east of what is now I-79 and Joseph retained the land west of present I-79 which included the original **STRALEY** home place. This acreage appears to have been what George referred to in his will as his "old place or farm" and may well have been that land which now includes the Wilderness Plantation Complex and the **CAYTON** property.

On 14 February 1825 George acquired twenty-four acres from Jacob **BONNETT** and his wife, the former Martha **HUGHES** (Indian captive). Jacob was a brother to George's first wife, Elizabeth. According to Lewis County Deed Book C, page 145, the land was "on Hacker's Creek and it being a part of a lot of land, inherited by Henry Bonnet one of the heirs at law to Samuel Bonnet deceased Beginning at a beech on the east side of Hacker's Creek, on the line of Henry Bonnet and running thence N 30 degrees East 102 poles to a white oak thence N 37 W 38 poles to a maple thence S 80 degrees W 100 poles to a stump on the bank of said Creek thence with the meanders of said Creek to the beginning, containing twenty four acres."

Ten years later, on 1 April 1835, as the result of a suit in Superior Court against the heirs of Tobias **MILLER**, George acquired 270 acres from the Tobias **MILLER** heirs, namely John **MILLER**, Sophia **MILLER**, Jacob **MILLER**, Mary Ann **MILLER**, William H. **MILLER**, Elizabeth D. **MILLER**, and Edwin D. **MILLER**, for the sum of \$1. The land is described in Lewis County Deed Book F, page 166; and, although the deed is dated 1835, the actual deed, according to a notation in the deed book, was not delivered until 29 Mar 1857, long after George's death. A. K. **STRALEY** received the deed.

A second deed, recorded in Lewis County Deed Book F, page 331, explains the circumstances of the original suit and grants Sarah **MILLER** her dower rights.

That deed says, "Tobias **MILLER** in his life time did sell unto a certain **SMITH** of the said County of Lewis a certain tract . . . containing 275 acres situate in the said County of Lewis on Hacker's Creek and gave to the said **SMITH** a bond to make a deed for the Same, but died without having made said deed which bond was assigned by the said **SMITH** to the said George **STRALEY** who instituted a suit in the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery . . . (which required) the heirs . . . to convey said tract. . . to George **STRALEY** and whereas also the said Sarah **MILLER** instituted a suit. . . against George **STRALEY** to recover dower . . . " The deed concludes with George paying Sarah **MILLER** \$125 for her dower rights to the tract.

This land included the farm now owned by C.D. **COLE** which was known in more recent times as the Fess **HACKER** farm. It is reached by walking down a dirt road near the old "Bridge Barn" which was built by John I. **ALLMAN** from the lumber from the old Jane Lew covered bridge. The house, believed to have been built by either George or his son-in-law William P. **HACKER**, still stands - abandoned and in bad state of repair.

On 29 July 1846 George **STRALEY**, apparently in ill health and fearful that the children by his first wife might not carry out his wishes pertaining to forty five acres he had received from his first wife, prepared for death by writing his will which is recorded in Will Book B, page 52, in the Lewis County Courthouse. It read:

"I George **STRALEY** of Lewis County and State of Virginia do hereby make my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say 1st I desire that all the perishable part of my estate be immediately sold after my decease and out of the monies accruing therefrom all my Just debts and funeral expenses be paid.

2d I give to my children Joseph **STRALEY** Samuel **STRALEY** Elizabeth **WAGGONER** Christina **WOLF** George **STRALEY** Stephen **STRALEY** Nicholas **STRALEY** Jacob **STRALEY** Susanah **STRALEY** Mary **WAGGONER**, Hanah **EDMOND** & Nancy **KING** a tract of Land on Hacker's Creek in the County of Lewis Containing three hundred acres known as my old place or farm to each an equal sare to be divided

among them or disposed of as they may severally think proper to them and their heirs forever.

3d After the payment of my Just debts and funeral expenses I give to my Wife Margaret **STRALEY** all the balance of my estate both real and personal for and during the time of her natural life and after her decease I give the Same to my Children herein after mentioned to be equally divided among them and to be enjoyed by them their heirs forever namely Asa Kemper **STRALEY** Julia Ann **STRALEY** - Lucretia **STRALEY** and David Benton **STRALEY**, the above to be given to my Wife to be in Lieu of her dower interest in my estate.

To my son John **STRALEY** I have heretofore made an advance in Land which I intend to be his share of my estate and when I have heretofore sold to Nicholas **ALKIRE** a tract of land on the east side of Hacker's Creek supposed to Contain forty-five acres which tract of Land descended to my first wife and in which I have an estate for life - a tenant by ??? and being desirous that the sale to the said **ALKIRE** shall be perfected by a conveyance of the Said land in fee simple to the said **ALKIRE**,

It is my Will that the heirs of my first wife to whom the same will descend on my decease do make said conveyance to said **ALKIRE** and to insure the same I do hereby declare that the bequest to them herein before made of three hundred acres of Land shall remain suspended until the same be done and that the said tract of the three hundred acres of land remain charged and subjected to the claim of the said **ALKIRE** to whom I stand bound to warrant the title of the said forty five acres tract until he shall be quited in his possession and title to the said forty five acres or otherwise fully indemnified in the promises.

Lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my friend William **MORRISON** my executor of this my last will and testament hereby revoking all other Wills or testaments by me heretofore made. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 29th day of July 1846.

George

STRALEY (seal)

The forgoing signed, sealed, publish and declared by George **STRALEY** as and for his last Will and testament in presence and hearing of us who at his request, and in his presence have subscribed our names as witnesses

Jas. **BENNETT**
Jonathan **HACKER**

George W. **SWISHER**
Lewis County Court
Sept 14 1846

This last will and testament of George **STRALEY** deceased was this day presented in Open Court and proven by the oaths of James **BENNETT** and Jonathan **HACKER** two of the subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be continued for further proof

And on the 15th Sept 1846 The last Will and testament of George **STRALEY** deceased was again presented in open court and fully proven by the Oath of George W. **SWISHER** and ordered to be recorded.

Teste John **MORROW** Clk

It appears that George's threat of withholding the 300 acres from his heirs by his first wife worked. The very next day after writing the above will (30 July 1846), a deed granting the forty five acres to Nicholas **ALKIRE** was written, signed by George and Margaret and all George's children of the first marriage, together with their spouses.

It was witness by Weeden **HUFFMAN** and Minter **BAILEY**, justices of the peace of Lewis County.

Sometime in the next five or six weeks George died and was buried in Harmony Cemetery in a now unmarked grave. Harmony was named in a speech given by Judge J. C. **MCWHORTER** as the burial place of George; otherwise we would have no record of his burial place.

George's will was first presented for probate on 14 September 1846 as stated above and William **MORRISON** was approved as executor on 9 October of the same year; yet, it was 25 years later, on the same day, that the final accounting was recorded in the courthouse.

George's property was inventoried on 22 October 1846. He owned a pair of bays and a gray horse, five cows, twenty-five pigs and sixteen sheep. There were the usual hay stacks and farm machinery and tools, several lots of planks (lumber), a loom, spinning wheels, cupboards, kettles, delph, tin and pewter ware, blankets, bedsteads, an old chest, a table and six chairs, a writing desk and five chairs, one "old gun," a lot of eight guns, and "4 Guns at the old place."

In addition, there were several notes he held for various neighbors.

There were two for John **FLESHER** (1834 and 1841), one for John **MITCHELL** (1834), one for son-in-law Samuel **HORNER** (1834), and one for David **CRAWFORD** (1844).

By the December term of court in 1846, George's "perishable" property had been sold as George had requested.

Purchasers were Nicholas **ALKIRE**, John **EDMONDS**, David **ALLMAN**, Christien F. **HOLSWID**, Jacob **ECHARD**, Joseph Michael J. **COZAD**, Joseph **STRALEY**, William **MORRISON**, Jonathan **HACKER**, Richard **BATTON**, William **WOTRON**, John T. **HACKER**, Jonathan **HACKER**, Martin **POST**, Abram **HINZMAN**, John "KEY", Elkana **ROBY**, Jacob **STARCHER**, Elijah **COZAD**, L. R. **BROWN**, Stephen P. **JACKSON**, Thos. C. **HINZMAN**, Jacob **WYMER**, Edward J. **JACKSON**, Holzen **KELLY**, Thomas **ROBY**, George P. **LOUGH**, Abram **HINZMAN**, William A. **WATSON**, and John **STARCHER**. Numerous items were purchased by the widow, Margaret.

In October 1848 William **MORRISON** made an accounting to the courts

of the estate. He noted that he had paid bills to the clerk's office, Margaret **MITCHEL**, James **BENNETT**, Stephen P. **JACKSON** & Son, John **KEE**, Nicholas **ALKIRE**, James **GASTON**, Jeramiah **COOKMAN**, Thomas C. **HINZMAN**, Jonathan **HACKER**, Richard **BATTON**, Holzen **KELLY**, Henry R. **BONNETT**, Elcana **ROBY**, John T. **HACKER**, Alexander **MORRISON**, Margaret **STANDLEY**, Hezekiah **STOUT**, Jonathan M. **BENNETT**, and Margaret **STRALEY**. This was the last entry in the court records for the settlement of George's estate (not including land) until October 1875 when he gave a final accounting. The accounts balanced at the time.

From all these records this writer surmises that during George's marriage to Elizabeth **BONNETT** the family lived on his "old place." What did the children do with it after they inherited it? On 13 December 1847 Stephen **STRALEY** and Mary, his wife, George **STRALEY** and Ruth, his wife, James R. **WOLF** and Christina **WOLF** (formerly Christina **STRALEY**), sold their share (one twelfth each) in the 300 acres.³

³ There are probably other deeds showing the transfer of property from the remaining children of George and Elizabeth **BONNETT STRALEY**.

George was listed as head of household on Benjamin **BARTLETT**'s tax list in Harrison County in 1798. William **ALLMAN** and John **ALKIRE** attended George's funeral according to affidavit for Margaret's pension.

Margaret: General Affidavit signed by John **ALKIRE** and William P. **HACKER** for Margaret's pension for son David's death in the Civil War: They said that they was well acquainted with the Soldier David B. **STRALEY** and are well acquainted with the applicant Margaret **STRALEY** who is the Mother of said Soldier. That to our certain knowledge said David B. **STRALEY** left no children he never having married. Affiants further say that they think that in the year 1861 the said Margaret **STRALEY** owned two cows and one Horse that one of said cows died prior to 1864 and one of the Affiants: to wit

William P. **HACKER** says to his certain knowledge in the 1865 the said Margaret **STRALEY** had but one cow and one Horse and since that year. She had had neither Horse nor cow but only a small amount of Household possessions. Both affiants say that from the year 1861 to 1865 her property at no time was worth more than Two Hundred Dollars And since 1865 no so much. And that her annual income was a mere pittance except what She received from the Services of her son the Said David B. **STRALEY** before and after he went into the Army of the U.S. in the war of the Rebellion. Affiants both further state that they have seen letters from the said David B. **STRALEY** directed to the said Margaret **STRALEY** in which letters he spoke of Money he had sent her and promising to send her more in the future for her support.

Margaret's affidavit for pension states that Lucretia, her daughter, was living in **JACKSON** County, WV, during the Civil War.

1.2. John Edmond **STRALEY**, b. 27-Nov-1797 in Harrison (Lewis) Co, (W)V. He married Sarah **MAGNET**, married 24-Apr-1821 in Ross Co, OH, b. 18-Feb-1803, d. 2-Aug-1839 in Fayette Co, OH, buried: in Koontz Cemetery Fayette Co, OH. John buried: in Koontz Cemetery Fayette Co, OH. After Sarah died, we aren't sure what John did. By 1850 he was living with his kids in Fayette County. In 1852 he sold his farm and is heard from no more. Helen **ENOCH** believed he may have gone to Iowa.

1.3. Samuel **STRALEY**, b. 1800 in Lewis Co, (W)V. He married (1) Susannah **CREAMER**, married 31-Mar-1825 in Fayette Co, OH, b. 17-Nov-1802 in Fayette Co, OH, d. 18-Dec-1856 in

Fayette Co, OH, buried: in Creamer Cemetery Fayette Co.
He married (2) Armetha **REDDING**. Samuel died ??-Feb-
1882 in Union Co, OH. See Leah **SHOEMAKER**'s book for
descendants of this family.

According to the Fayette Co, OH, history, p 659, when Jefferson
Twp was divided into seven school districts in 1826, Samuel's
home was in the second district.

- 1.4. George "Rush" **STRALEY**, b. 1802 in Lewis Co, (W)V. He married
Ruth **CHAPMAN**, married 7-Mar-1826 in Lewis Co, (W)V,
(daughter of Valentine Chapman and Ruth **STEVENS**). George
died 19-Aug-1891. George and Ruth lived in Jackson Co, WV,
and Ross Co, OH. Sources for
information on this couple include Raymond **WOLFE**, Jr., the
Jackson Co, WV,
History, personal research by Joy **GILCHRIST**, and research
completed by Benjamin F. **TATTERSON** in 1975.
- 1.5. Christina **STRALEY**, b. 1802 in Lewis Co, (W)V. She married
James Robert **WOLFE**, married 20-Aug-1841 in Lewis Co, (W)V,
b. 12-Apr-1788, (son of Jacob **WOLFE** and Anna **STRALEY**) d.
12-Feb-1858. Christina died 1895.
- 1.6. Mary **STRALEY**, b. 27-Dec-1804 in Hacker's Creek, now Lewis
Co, WV. She married Elijah **WAGGONER**, married in Lewis Co,
WV. Mary died 30-Aug-1882 in Lewis Co, (W)V. Death reported
by husband. She died from inflammation of bowel.
- 1.7. Stephen **STRALEY**, b. 4-Feb-1806 in Lewis Co, (W)V. He married
Mary **ALKIRE**, married 13-Mar-1834 in Lewis Co, (W)V, b. 22-
May-1815 in Lewis Co, (W)V, (daughter of Nicholas **ALKIRE** and
Elizabeth **BONNETT**) d. 2-Mar-1879 in Jackson Co, WV. Stephen
died 6-Jul-1885 in Ripley, Jackson Co, WV. Two of Stephen's
sons, John M. and William H., were in Capt. George **KING**'s
Company of the Home Guard during the Civil War. Were they
killed in the war? Information on this family came from George E.
STRALEY via the Tetrick Records, Delmer **HITE**, Jonathan
STRALEY of California, the **ALKIRE** book by
Carter, and the Jackson Co, WV, newsletter.

- 1.8. Nancy **STRALEY**, b. 1812 in Hacker's Creek, now Lewis Co, WV. She married Cornelius **KING**, married 12-Jan-1837 in Lewis Co, (W)V, b. 1815, (son of Elijah **KING** and Nancy **HURST**) d. 21-Feb-1862 in Harrison Co, (W)V, buried: in McWhorter Cemetery Harrison Co, WV. Cornelius: Benjamin F. **SEDWICK** married Cornelius and Nancy. Leonard **DAVIS** provided some of the information on this family.
- 1.9. Nicholas **STRALEY**, b. 1813 in Lewis Co, (W)V. He married (1) Sarah **MCWHORTER**, married 5-Oct-1836 in Harrison Co, (W)V, b. 14-Aug-1817, (daughter of Walter Fields **MCWHORTER** and Margaret **HURST**) d. 22-Oct-1850. He married (2) Catherine J. **FUNKHOUSE**, married 2-Mar-1851 in Lewis Co, (W)V.
- 1.10. Hannah **STRALEY**, b. 1815 in Hacker's Creek, now Lewis Co, WV. She married John **EDMONDS**, married 24-Nov-1836 in Lewis Co, (W)V, b. CA 1815. Hannah died 26-Aug-1858 in Lewis Co, (W)V. Hannah died of dysentery. John: Sources: L.C. Historic Records Survey; May **WHITE**; **STALNAKER** Family History.
- 1.11. Elizabeth **STRALEY**. She married Paul **WAGGONER**, married 1-Jan-1821 in Lewis Co, (W)V.
- 1.12. Jacob **STRALEY**, b. ??-Sep-1816 in Hacker's Creek, now Lewis Co, WV. He married Catherine Ann **FREEMAN**, married 23-Aug-1838 in Lewis Co, (W)V, b. 16-May-1823, d. ??-Mar-1900 in Lewis Co, WV, buried: in Mt. Zion Cemetery Rt Hnd Frk Freeman's Crk. Jacob died 27-Oct-1886 in Lewis Co, WV, buried: in Mt. Zion Cemetery Rt Hnd Frk Freeman's Crk. According to his obituary, he died at four a.m. at his home on Freeman's Creek. He died from paralysis.
- 1.13. Susannah **STRALEY**, b. 1818 in Lewis Co, (W)V. She married (1) Thomas Gideon **BATTEN**, married 22-Dec-1850 in Lewis Co, (W)V. She married (2) Henry **STANNARD**.



Children born to George by his second wife, Margaret **ROBY** (pictured at left):

Margaret Roby Straley

1.14. Asa Kemper **STRALEY**, b. 10-Sep-1829 in Lewis Co, (W)V. He married Louisa Elizer **HORNER**, married 20-Oct-1853 in Lewis Co, (W)V, b. ??-Dec-1829 in Lewis Co, (W)V, (daughter of Samuel **HORNER** and Martha **BONNETT**) d. 6-Apr-1907 in Lewis Co, WV, buried: in

IOOF Friendship/Fairview Cemetery Hackers Crk. Asa died 12-Jan-1908 in Lewis Co, WV, buried: in IOOF Friendship/Fairview Cemetery Hacker's Creek. Asa Kemper **STRALEY** was a shoemaker. He was in the Union militia. In 1880, he and Louisa were living in Hacker's Creek District. Asa's birthdate came from the **STRALEY** family Bible which Reva **BENNETT** has. It passed down from Asa's sister, Lucretia. Other sources for data include John C. **STRALEY**, the Tetrick Records.

1.15. Penwood **STRALEY**, b. 10-Jun-1831 in Lewis Co, (W)V, d. B4 1840 in Lewis Co, (W)V.

1.16. Presley H. **STRALEY**, b. 4-Apr-1833 in Lewis Co, (W)V, d. B4 1840 in Lewis Co, (W)V.

1.17. Juliann **STRALEY**, b. 27-Feb-1835 in Lewis Co, (W)V. She married William **MOORE**, married 21-Apr-1859 in Lewis Co, (W)V, b. CA 1835, d. 29-Feb-1884 in Lewis Co, WV, buried: in Broad Run Cemetery Lightburn, Lewis Co, WV. Juliann died 18-Apr-1864 in Lewis Co, WV, buried: in Harmony Cemetery nr Jane Lew, Lewis Co, WV. Juliann's birthdate was given on her mother's pension application for David's pension. William **MOORE** was listed as a widower when he married Nancy **GOLDEN** in 1864, four months after Juliann died.

MOORE, William, 30, b 1 Jun 1831, Harrison Co, s/o James & Roanna **MOORE**; 5'9"; light comp; blue eyes; dark hair; farmer;

1/m Juliann **STRALEY** 21 Apr 1859, Lewis Co; enlisted in Co. K, 15th WV Infantry (Union) in Jane Lew, WV; mus 3 Mar 1864, Belington; on detached serv, Engineer Corps, New Creek, b/o Mulligan since 4 Apr 1864; home on furl 16 Apr 1864 - 29 Apr 1864, apparently due to wife's illness and subsequent death on 18 Apr 1864; 21 Aug 1864, Clarksburg, Harrison Co, WV, married Nancy **GOLDEN**, d/o John & Eliza **GOLDEN**, abs sick GH Cumberland mus Dec 1864 till mus out GH Cumberland per GO #77 to date 10 Jun 1865; d 29 Feb 1884 & bur Broad Run Cemetery, Lightburn. Children: John Reason (1883-1947), Luther S. (1875-); and Nora, b Jun 1881. (AGR, MR, SR, LCVB).

1.18. Lucretia **STRALEY**, b. 13-Dec-1837 in Hacker's Creek, now Lewis Co, WV. She married William P. **HACKER**, married 16-Jun-1853 in Lewis Co, (W)V, b. 10-Mar-1830 in Hacker's Creek, now Lewis Co, WV, (son of Jonathan **HACKER** and Hannah **BENNETT**) d. 25-Apr-1891 in Hacker's Creek, now Lewis Co, WV, buried: in Morrison Cemetery. Lucretia died 9-Sep-1907 in Hacker's Creek, now Lewis Co, WV, buried: in IOOF Friendship/Fairview Cemetery Hacker's Creek. William: Information on this branch from the **STRALEY** Bible in possession of Reva **BENNETT**; Denna **WINEMILLER** records; Lewis County Census; Minnie **MCWHORTER**; Cemetery Records; personal knowledge. Funeral not preached until October 4 from Fairview Church. His burial site is unknown but may be at Morrison in an unmarked grave.

1.19 David Benton **STRALEY**, b. 6-Jul-1842 in Lewis Co, (W)V, d. 19-Sep-1864 in nr Winchester, VA. See story about David elsewhere in this issue.

Tips on Using Vital Records at WVCULTURE.ORG

by Clifford Larry Francis

I cannot say how many records that I have reviewed since the West Virginia Culture and History has posted Vital Records (Birth, Death and Marriage) records for West Virginia. What I can say is - that it has been several thousands. What a great asset the web site has been. I can remember the hours and days that I have spent looking through Wes COCHRAN's Marriage records that he extracted and published for various counties in West Virginia. His work has been a great asset to genealogy research and we all should thank him for all his hard diligent work.

Now with the WVCULTURE Web site we have many thousands of records available at the click of the search button after we have entered the name or names we are researching. The web address to access the records is <http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/>

First, let me indicate a few problems I have found in some of the postings on the WVCULTURE.ORG site:

- Names or data POSTED does not correspond with what the summary record shows, due to typographical errors or misinterpretation of the record. An email to the WVCULTURE Webmaster will get some corrected.
- Some images do not show the referenced name in the summary. Most likely an error in posting the URL for the image.
- Some images cannot be read, as they are too dark. This is a common problem with converting film items to digital images and with the filming process.
- Not all births, deaths and marriages are in the data due to cutoff dates and the fact that some were never recorded.

Now for my Tips:

1. Suggest reading the referenced PDF Newsletter as it provides information on what is posted and why detail summaries are no longer

the practice. It also explains the cutoff date for births, marriages and deaths records.

2. Be sure to use the wild card ' * ' and ' _ ' when doing searches for names that have many variations in spelling. Read the explanation at the bottom of the search window on how to use.

3. When doing searches that bring up too many names, make a hand written list of the counties shown, then search the name by county.

4. If you know the husband's surname and the wife's first name - do a marriage search by entering the husband's surname and the wife's first name. That may bring up a list that you can review, however in some case the results are zero.

5. If you cannot find a full name, try a search only by the surname, then check listing for the name. Sometimes it is not spelled the way you may think. Also, for marriage records, try the surname only for both husband or wife, then check the listing that the search results brings up.

6. Be sure to review the image, as information not in the summary can be found to add to your research information. Also, check the consent area of marriage records as sometimes that is where you find the parents name when not other shown.

7. If Wife's Maiden name is unknown - search the death or marriage record, then check the image to see if the parents are listed.

8. Extracting information - I highlight the summary page, then paste to a word program or to my genealogy program. I then add additional information found on the image that is not in the summary record.

9. Want a list of all the surnames found in the birth or death or marriage records. After doing a surname search, highlight all the cells shown, and paste into an Excel spreadsheet. Modify the excel columns so all the data fits on one line. With Excel, one can sort the listing to meet your needs. You can also paste the data into a Word document.

10. Want a quick listing without typing the whole name, type the first three or four letters followed by the '* '.

11. I recommend checking the block to show '100' names to a page.

12. Found an error, send an email to the Web Master, highlight the summary, and paste into the body of the email, that helps them to identify the correct record to be corrected. Note: They cannot change what is on the image, only what is on the summary.

13. Want to look at part of an image at a later time, do a screen print (ctl-print-screen) then past into a Power Point chart. In the Power Point chart, one can enlarge the view of the image. This can be helpful if you want to save a part of an image without saving the whole image file, which you can do.

14. Supplement your research by reviewing census records, such as Heritage Quest available through some local library or Ancestry.com. Do not forget to check cemetery readings and obituaries

GENEALOGY TIP!

Google Book Search: Researching Your (Ancestral) Roots

This is little video that shows different ways to search Google Books

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwnbCmVrISQ>

David Benton STRALEY
Company D
15th West Virginia Infantry



While Union Maj. Gen. George **MEADE**'s Army of the Potomac was defeating attacks by Confederate Gen. Robert E. **LEE**'s Army of Northern Virginia at Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863, other soldiers were guarding the back door in the hope of slowing Lee's retreat back to Virginia. Among those waiting and then harrying **LEE**'s southern retreat was the Fifteenth West Virginia Infantry which was then under the command of Col. Maxwell **MC CASLIN**.

In the regiment were two companies from Lewis County, Company B and Company D. Company B, commanded by Capt. Michael Egan, was from the Leading Creek area. Company D, commanded by Capt. Jasper **PETERSON**, was mainly from the Hacker's Creek area with a few coming from the Skin Creek area.

Among those serving under **PETERSON** was twenty-one year old David Benton **STRALEY**, the son of the late George **STRALEY** and his second wife, Margaret Roby. David was five feet ten inches tall, had fair complexion, black eyes and black hair. David and his mother lived in the old **STRALEY** home which now stands empty on land now owned by C.D. **COLE** back of the Fairview/Friendship Cemetery on the Hacker's Creek Road between Jane Lew and Berlin in Lewis County.

On July 4, he penned the following letter to his mother:

New Creek, Hampshire Co, West Va

*Dear mother I Seat my Self this morning to inform you that I am well at this time and hope these few lines will find you well I received your letter that you sent by G. W. **BORAM** and was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was well the most of the company is well and in good Spirits we are still on this hill and I cant tell how long we will have*

to stay but I hope that we will not stay here long the reports is that we will not stay more than two or three days longer I would not be surprised if we would be in clarksburg before a week

mother I have sent my over coat and dress coat to clarksburg in a box with Alfred **HINZMAN** and M. G. **WAGGONER** the box is directed to Johon (sic) D. **HINZMAN** tell John that if he will get them fetched up that we will pay him for his trouble we did not need them so we sent them home to get shet of the trouble of taking care of them I am going down to town today to get my likeness taken if I can I am going to send it to Juliann she said that she wanted me to send it to her and I am going to do so if I can get it taken we expect the pay master here this evening to pay us off Mr **MORSON** (sic) is going to start home tomorrow but he cant wait till we are paid.

I will send you twenty Dollars by him and I will send you some more as soon as we are paid and I can have a chance Mother use as much of it as you _____ in need of and if there is anymore you can save it till I come home

there was a sad accident happend (sic) in this regime it day before yesterday there was a gun discharged by some cause in company C and it killed a man in Co G it shot him through the head killing him instantly the poor fellow did not know what hurt him I want you to write to me often and let me know how you are getting along

give my respects to AK⁴ and family & Juliann and Will am⁵ so no more at this time but remaining your son till death

D. B. **STRALEY**

to Margaret **STRALEY**

Within six months of David's writing this letter, on March 3, 1864 to be exact, his brother Asa Kemper **STRALEY** and brother-in-law William **MOORE** both enlisted in Company K of the same regime nt; and, just six weeks later, on April 18, 1864, Juliann died.

⁴ David's youngerer brother, Asa Kemper **STRALEY**. He enlisted in Company K of the same regiment in March 1864.

⁵ Juliann and William (**MOORE**) were David's sister and her husband. Juliann would die on April 18, 1864. The previous month (March 1864) William also had enlisted in Company K.

David's mother, Margaret, was surely heartbroken at the loss of her YOUNGEST daughter; but, her grief had not started there and it would not end there.

Margaret's first loss was the death of two YOUNG sons, Penwood and Presley, sometime before 1840; then she was widowed on August 9, 1846. Some years later, David was killed in action at the Third Battle of Winchester on September 19, 1864. He died of a gunshot wound to the head. His remains are apparently interred as one of the unknowns at the Winchester National Cemetery in Winchester, Virginia.

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## LOOKING FOR SOMEONE ON THE INTERNET?

So a lot of you have been talking about people you knew way back when and wondering where they are now. A Facebook friend from Weston posted the following suggestions:

- 1) Go to [www.peoplefinders.com](http://www.peoplefinders.com) and search for them by first and last name. Use proper name ex: James instead of Jim or Jamie. Also search by just state. You will be given a list of names and if it is huge, narrow it down by age.
- 2) Go to [Whitepages.com](http://Whitepages.com) and search for them in the first city listed. Example, if you search for me, the first city listed is Chicago, IL (where I live now). That should give you their address and phone number. Then call them. If you do not get a number there, try another city on the list.
- 3) If you do not get a number for them on [whitepages.com](http://whitepages.com), try googling them by putting their name in ""s and putting the city, state listed first. Maybe you will get lucky and find their email address.
- 4) Also search on Facebook. Try Myspace as well.

## Queries ??????????

1. I am trying to find some family placement and reference for a Hiram **COTTRILL**. He most likely was born b1790 or before. If he was in any references to Harrison County it likely was only before 1807. Does anyone have a missing Hiram **COTTRILL**? Paul Pettit 28790 Ellis Ave., Romoland, CA 92585 [cpettit@telis.net](mailto:cpettit@telis.net)
2. I descend from Mariah **ALLEN** b 27 May 1805 Monongalia Co, VA; d 18 Nov 1881 m 8 Mar 1833 Harrison Co, VA John **NEWLON** 1789-1872 (son of Thomas **NEWLON** & Susan \_\_\_\_\_). My records show Mariah's father to be Joseph **ALLEN**, probably an immigrant, was in War 1812; d 1848 Taylor Co, VA and that he married Elizabeth **DORSEY**. There is a Joseph **ALLEN** in 1810, 20 30 Monongalia Co, VA census records. Questions: Does anyone have any information about **DORSEYs** in northern (W)VA? I am having a hard time finding a candidate family for Elizabeth **DORSEY**. Of course, if you have reason to believe Joseph **ALLEN** married someone else, that would be helpful, too ;>) Does anyone have a will or other record of Joseph **ALLEN**? This has been a hard family for me to pin down. Jim **BARTLETT**, 7224 Beacon Terrace, Bethesda, MD 20817. <jim4bartletts@verizon.net>
3. Trying to find the cemetery where David Peter **MURPHY** is buried. David Peter **MURPHY** b abt 1770 in Culpeper, Fauquier County, Virginia, d 1850/51 in Burnersville, WV. I think it may have been Barbour County then. He was the son of Thomas **MURPHY** b 1744. His wife was Lydia Harrison **POE**. Any help would be appreciated. Ju Wanna **FORTNEY**, 1410 Lee St East, Charleston, WV 25301.
4. I have a query regarding my paternal Great Grandfather John Pendleton **FLAHERTY** (aka John T. **FLAHERTY**). I've discovered some of his gr.gr. nieces and nephews (descendants of James and Mary Ann **HAMETT FLAHERTY**). They keep adding a brother "Phineas" to John Pendleton **FLAHERTY**. I do know my

paternal GG Grandmother was Eliza Ann **GILBERT** (the first wife of James C. **FLAHERTY**) and that Syntha A. **HACKER** was John P. **FLAHERTY's** wife. Do you know of any "Phineas" or anything about Eliza Ann **GILBERT's** family? I seem to recall that Aunt Betty (Betty **FLAHERTY KING**) said Eliza's father was a minister. Thank you, Cyndy **FLAHERTY** 27 Nye Street, Manchester, [CTcflah@cox.net](mailto:CTcflah@cox.net)

5. Looking for a death date for Amanda "Mandy" Elizabeth **QUICK SHREVE**, my great grandmother. Born about 1848 in Nelson, County, Virginia. Daughter of Thomas I **QUICK** b. 1800 and Elizabeth **BABER**. She married Noah Alexander **SHREVE**, on 16 June 1870 in Randolph County. Noah Alexander is buried in the Crouch Cemetery between Mill Creek and Valley Bend, WV. I have been there but have not found it. Jo **FORTNEY**, 1410 Lee St East, Charleston, WV 25301 [juwannaf@aol.com](mailto:juwannaf@aol.com)
6. Looking for information regarding James Otley **DAMRON** born in Nelson County, VA, 29 March 1860, Died 22 Nov 1942, House Fire, Fisher's Hill, Lewis County, WV, Married Mary "Ethel" **PETERSON**, 31 Aug 1902, born 27 Mar 1873 died of TB, 11 April 1916. Daughter of Dexter **PETERSON** & Sarah Marcelia **FISHER**. Looking for information regarding James **DAMRON's** known residence in 1900. I am unable to find him in the 1900 census. I know that he worked on the Railroads and later helped to build houses on Fisher's Hill and even traveled to Fellsmere, FL, with his wife Ethel and my grandmother Margaret **PRINTZ DAMRON**. Any information regarding his stay in Fellsmere, as a house builder, and his known residence in 1900 would be appreciated, as well as any other information on this family...Maria **SOTO**, 2703 Hackett Ave, Long Beach, CA 90815 [mariasoto\\_1@charter.net](mailto:mariasoto_1@charter.net)

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## **=====MEMBERSHIP IN HCPD=====**

"Membership shall be open to anyone who has an interest in the history and/or genealogy of the Central West Virginia area." This includes, particularly, Lewis, Harrison, Doddridge, Upshur, Braxton, Gilmer, Webster, Calhoun and Clay Counties. We have nearly 1,000 members from 50 states and several foreign countries.

**DUES:** Membership dues are due October 1 and are effective through September 30 of the following year. Single or family membership is \$35 a year, which includes one copy of each quarterly *HACKER'S CREEK JOURNAL*. There is an additional \$5 surcharge for "online" access to HCPD Library Resources and access to HCPD-L. **LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** Life memberships are available for \$600.

**ANNUAL GATHERING:** The annual meeting of the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants is held each year during the month of August. Come and join us and learn about the pioneers. Bring your genealogical materials, pictures and mementoes and spend "A Glorious Weekend with Your Cousins."

If interested in becoming a member of HCPD, please make a copy of the membership form on the next page and return the completed copy to HCPD, 45 Abbotts Run Road, Horner, WV 26372 Use space around the coupon to tell us what families you are researching. We are looking forward to having you as a member!

## HCPD MEMBERSHIP FORM

For office use: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ Back Issues \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Card \_\_\_\_\_ Packet \_\_\_\_\_

I/we hereby apply for \$35 regular (OR) \$40 on-line membership in The Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants.

Miss/Mrs./Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Given Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

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Families I am researching: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Hacker's Creek Pioneer

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(Continued)

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Duane & C. Sue Miles Nichols  
Ralph Nichols  
Arch & Rose Nissel  
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Gayle Peterson  
The late Doris Poinsett  
The late Ruth McCray Post  
Carol Powell  
Clarence I. & Lois Bartlett Price  
Ardell Ratliff  
Dennis Rodgers  
Beecher & Betty Rhoades  
Joe & Erseline Rumbach  
Esther DeHaven Schilling  
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Barbara Shaver  
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The late Dot Sipe  
Louise Slaton  
The late Chester Steyer  
The late Hartzel Strader  
Joy Strader Mealey  
Boyd L. "Rocky" Swisher  
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The late Raydine Teicheira and the  
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The late Mrs. Byron J. Turner  
Patricia & Bernard Viellenave  
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Warner  
The late Glea Waugh  
Raymond & the late Bonnie Ware  
The late Christine White  
Eleanor Allman & the late Lee  
Wiseman  
Raymond Wolfe, Jr.

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Cary L. & Donna Williams  
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Don Wills and the late Ginger  
Wills

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# **HACKER'S CREEK**

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 The late Betty J. Hamner  
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 William J. McKinney, Sr.  
 Ellie McClain Maroon  
 David N. Matthews, D.D.S., M.S.  
 Kelli Dawn Merk  
 Linda B. Meyers  
*Continued on inside of back*